

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, January 21, 2005

EDWARD REISKIN NAMED NEW DEPUTY MAYOR FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE

Mayor Williams this week announced five major new personnel appointments, including Edward D. Reiskin as the new Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice. In his new position, Reiskin provides oversight and support to the MPDC and the District's four other public safety and justice agencies: Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Corrections, Emergency Management Agency, and Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. The Deputy Mayor also serves as the executive branch liaison to the federal justice agencies that provide services in the District. Reiskin has more than 15 years of experience in the private, academic, non-profit, and public sectors. Since 2003, he has served as chief of staff to DC's city administrator, managing day-to-day affairs of the office, serving as key advisor on all DC government policy, operational and administrative matters. Prior to joining DC government, Reiskin worked for three years for the City of Oakland, CA, as an assistant to the city manager. In that capacity, he supported and coordinated the work of various city agencies, with a focus on public safety and community development. From 1988 to 1998, Reiskin performed business and community environmental work for a non-profit research and consulting organization, conducted academic research on sustainable development and worked as an engineer and manager in the private sector.

- ① Among the other appointments announced by Mayor Williams were Stan Jackson, as Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, and Patrick Canavan, as Acting Director of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs. Read the news release announcing all of the new appointments at:
<http://dc.gov/news/release.asp?id=663>

SPOTLIGHT ON ... THE WASHINGTON AREA VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT UNIT

It's 7 am and MPDC officers assigned to the Washington Area Vehicle Enforcement (WAVE) Unit are starting their day where they often do: in court, preparing to testify in one of numerous auto theft trials. While the process may be slow at times, the officers persist, and defense attorneys usually end up convincing their clients to accept a plea. After court, WAVE Unit officers meet up with other members of the multi-agency team, which consists of the Prince George's County, Montgomery County and Maryland State police departments, as well as the US Marshals Service. Their sole job: look for occupied stolen vehicles. MPDC Sergeant Tim Cortright runs the briefing, giving the team a "hot sheet," also known as a "1010," which lists recently stolen vehicles. Many of the vehicles that make the list were taken during a carjacking or an armed robbery. The briefing normally lasts about a half hour. Afterwards, they check with local jurisdictions on any hot items, and then they hit the streets – with their time spent primarily in areas known for high auto theft activity. Now in its fourth year, the WAVE Unit is funded in part by a grant from the Maryland/DC Anti-Car Theft Committee. Unit members have made more than 2,200 felony arrests, and have recovered weapons, drugs and wanted felons. In 2003, they made 652 arrests.

- ① Read more about the work of the WAVE Unit at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/city/ss_wave_1204.shtml
- ① Help WAVE and other police officers spot stolen cars being driven during the early morning hours by signing up for the "Watch Your Car" program. Details at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/wyc.shtml>
- ① For information and tips on how you can prevent your vehicle from being stolen, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/autotheft.shtml>

WITH SNOW ON THE GROUND AND IN THE FORECAST, THE MPDC ENCOURAGES MOTORISTS TO DRIVE SAFELY

With DC getting its first measurable snow of the year—and with more of the white stuff in the forecast – the MPDC reminds motorists to follow some common-sense preparations and safety tips. One of the most important things that drivers can do is to ensure that their vehicles are winterized, with checks not only of the engine and battery, but also tires, windshield wipers and fluid, and an emergency kit. Once you're on the road, drivers should practice these basic safety precautions recommended by AAA Mid-Atlantic:

- Remove snow and ice from your vehicle before driving.
- Reduce speed and increase the distance between your vehicle and the one in front of you.
- Avoid abrupt lane changes, turns or other maneuvers—and pay extra attention to other drivers who may do these things.
- If you skid on ice, don't panic. First, take your foot off the brake or accelerator. Second, don't "fight" the car—steer into the direction it is traveling to regain traction. Third, accelerate slowly.
- To brake on ice and snow, remember which kind of braking system you have: with anti-lock brakes (ABS), keep the pedal depressed and do not pump the brakes; if you do not have anti-lock brakes, then apply the brakes firmly. If they start to lock up, slowly release the brake pedal until the tires are no longer skidding and you can feel them braking properly again.
- Turn on windshield wipers and headlights as soon as rain or snow begins to fall.
- Keep an emergency kit in your vehicle to include a flashlight, flares or reflective triangles, jumper cables, a first-aid kit, blankets or extra clothing, kitty litter or sand, and a snow shovel.

DECEMBER PHOTO RADAR STATS SHOW CONTINUED SUCCESS IN COMBATING SPEEDING

For the third month in a row, a record low percentage of motorists in DC were speeding aggressively during December. Of the nearly 1.4 million vehicles that passed through photo radar enforcement zones during the month, just under 4 percent were found to be speeding above the program's threshold speed. By comparison, the aggressive speeding rate was 31 percent in July 2001 (initial warning period) and 25.5 percent in August 2001 (first month of ticketing). In addition to putting the brakes on aggressive speeding, photo enforcement is helping to reduce the average speeds of all motorists on DC roadways, including residential streets, arteries and highways. For example, on streets with a 25-mph speed limit, the average speed of all vehicles monitored by photo radar was just 25.6 mph in December 2004, down from 35.5 mph in July 2001. Since August 2001, about 1.2 million Notices of Infraction have been mailed and approximately 873,000 paid, resulting in fines of \$65.8 million. This level of consistent enforcement has been achieved without taking officers from other community policing assignments in DC's neighborhoods.

NEW & NOTES

Career Expo on January 29. The MPDC will be recruiting for both sworn and civilian positions during the day-long event at the Washington Convention Center. Details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=3038>.

Chief Ramsey on "Live at Five." Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues and takes phone calls from 5-6 pm on Wednesday, January 26, during his monthly interview segment on WOL-1450 AM radio.

Quarterly MOA Report. The MPDC's latest progress report on implementation of the use-of-force Memorandum of Agreement signed with the US Justice Department, covering the last three months of 2004, is now available (in PDF) at mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/pdf/FIT_progress_0105.pdf.

① For a more detailed list of winter driving safety tips, courtesy of AAA Mid-Atlantic, go to:
http://www.aaamidatlantic.com/safety/releases_list.asp?region=5

① For other traffic safety tips that you can use during winter and throughout the years, visit the MPDC website at:
<http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/traffic.shtml>

① For detailed information on DC's photo radar speeding reduction program, go to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speedresults_text.shtml

① For information on DC's successful red-light camera intersection safety program, click on:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/redlight.shtml>

DATA BOX

Homicides as of 1/21/05

- ◆ 2005: 10
- ◆ 2004: 18
- ◆ % Change: -44.4%
- ◆ Closure Rate: 50.0% (5 closures)

Adult Arrests week end. 1/15/05

- ◆ Total: 778
- ◆ Drugs: 139
- ◆ Weapons: 26
- ◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 20
- ◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 39

Juvenile Activity week end. 1/15/05

- ◆ Arrests: 39
- ◆ Curfew Violations: 11
- ◆ Truants: 54

Firearm Recoveries as of 1/19/05

- ◆ January: 134
- ◆ 2005 Total: 134
- ◆ 2004 Total: 2,065

Traffic Fatalities as of 1/21/05

- ◆ 2005: 2
- ◆ 2004: 4
- ◆ % Change: -50.0%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

mpdc.dc.gov